

Approved For Release 2000/05/24 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200090144-1  
STATINTL

# CIA Appears A Cuba Bungler



JOHN McCONE  
Allowed Gap?



ALLEN DULLES  
Sorry Record?

By TED LEWIS  
Chicago Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The congressional baiters of the Kennedy administration on the Cuba issue, especially the Republicans, suddenly have begun to wonder if it is going to be politically wise to force all the facts into the open.

This is because, even at this early stage of congressional prying into the administration's Cuba activities, it is turning out that the Central Intelligence Agency has had a sorry record. The CIA, therefore, could turn out to have been the biggest bungler, rather than the White House.

Such a climax to a congressional investigation would distress Republicans for a simple reason. The controversial spy agency was headed for 8 years by a Republican, Allen Dulles, and his successor, John McCone, who took over in October, 1961, also has been a life-long partisan Republican.

Republicans became aware earlier this week of the danger that an attack on President Kennedy's handling of the Cuban problem could ricochet to CIA's McCone and Dulles.

This came when Senate GOP leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois revealed that four American fliers were killed over the Bay of Pigs in April, 1961, and the administration mysteriously had kept the fatalities secret.

It now turns out that it was the CIA, not the White House,

## Clamor For Facts Rebounds On GOP



SEN. DIRKSEN  
No Gain?

cealing the information and the White House simply bowed to the hush hush demand of the agency.

★ ★ ★

The CIA always has been obsessed by the need for secrecy and this case was typical of the agency's attitude.

ing for the CIA at the time their death. So what? The trained the Cuban exile sion army got the ships. It and the weapons. The estimates are that the number of Americans on the CIA roll operating in the training areas and in other hotfoot erations preparatory to the vasion fiasco exceeded the Cuban freedom fighters.

So Dirksen, in disclosing the death of the fliers, found out he was making far political hay than he hopefully expected. His aim was Mr. Kennedy for keeping the lid on the deaths for most 2 years. But his aim hit the GOP-run CIA, despite Dirksen's good partisan fiscal intentions.

Another congressional opponent has had an unexpected twist of the same kind. In houses of Congress there have been charges suggesting the administration was a little bit about a "Cuba picture gap" in September 1962. It was during this month that the Cubans secretly shipped in offensive missiles and started construction of launching sites.

This "picture gap" was extended from Sept. 5 until Oct. 14, when the first missile was fired. Only the offensive was